

Advance Rumely 20-40

La Porte, IN 1920



The Advance-Rumely Thresher Company of La Porte, Indiana, USA, was a builder of farm machinery, perhaps best known for the Rumely Oil-Pull line of tractors. The company introduced its first tractor in 1908 after employing engineer John Secor to work on the engine design. The first Rumely "Oil Pull" tractor was tested in 1909 and the machine became known as Kerosene Annie due to its ability to burn kerosene.



Tractor production began properly in 1910 and "Kerosene Annie" model became the Rumely Model B 25-45 tractor. Kerosene Annie may also be found at JUMP on the main level.

The year 1911 saw two new heavyweight models appear: the twin-cylinder Model E 30-60 and the smaller single-cylinder Model F 15-30 later re-rated as an 18-35.

Towards the end of the decade, the smaller Models G, H, and K joined these, which were similar to the Model E, but significantly smaller.

The Rumely Oil Pull was the first tractor to use an oil-cooling system as opposed to water, which kept the engine at a

steady temperature no matter how heavy the tractor's load.

The oil cooled system gave the Rumely Oil Pull line its name. The oil-cooling system also provided an advantage in cold weather operation as there were few suitable anti-freeze solutions available. In cold weather, many of the water-cooling systems would freeze, but this was not a problem for the Oil Pull because it used oil as coolant, and was never subject to freezing. The oil also allowed for the cylinders to run hotter and easier quicker ignition. The Oil Pull starts on gas, but runs on kerosene, which made it much lighter and easier to maneuver than its steam-driven predecessors.

Rumely engineers also made space for an extra person in the tractor's cab, gave the operator a clear view in every direction, and placed all the mechanisms — gearshift, clutch, foot brake, steering wheel, carburetor, and more— in easy reach. These new design elements helped the Rumely Oil Pull to surpass most old kerosene tractors, and many of these features were further refined in their gasoline-powered machines.

The Model G was produced from 1918 to 1924 with a total of 7,949 built over their seven-year life span. Over the course of the Rumely Company's life, it accumulated other farm machinery companies, including the Advance Thresher and Gaar-Scott companies. After these acquisitions, the company became known as the Advance-Rumely

Company. A later acquisition was the Aultman-Taylor Company.

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